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22 November 1974

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SUBJECT
AREA: Air ForcesDISTRIBUTION:
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No. 40-74

TITLE/SIGNIFICANCE:

A Possible Indicator of Deployment of Vertical Lift Aircraft

COMMENT: A vertical take-off and landing pad, adjacent to the main runway, was recently completed at Ramenskoye Flight Test Center. The pad, approximately 150- by 160-ft, was constructed of precast concrete blocks with a square of pierced-metal-planking (PMP) covering the center of the pad. The PMP would probably be needed by vertical lift aircraft, such as the RAM-G, to prevent erosion of the concrete by the lift engines. Helicopters usually do not require reinforced surfaces for operation. Although PMP has been used for runways at Soviet airfields, observation of this type of construction may indicate the future deployment of a vertical lift aircraft to existing airfields; however, this type of landing pad does not need to be located at an airfield.

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Ramenskoye Flight Test Center

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